

PUPP'S

195 Maple Ave.
at Prince Charles Drive,
Wainfleet

Acting up

Showboat Theatre offers new production
Page 3

Agricultural aid

Changebook aims to help farmers
Page 12

Catching wind

Turbine project proposals set for Sept.
Page 9

Pirate ship

Jr. B hockey team holds tryouts
Page 14

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■ INFRASTRUCTURE

Shifting gears on Hwy. 406

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — The "Highway to Prosperity" is being widened — and more than 700 jobs are being created along the way.

St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley used the term coined by former Welland mayor Damian Gouibeault to share news last Friday that work on the third phase of the Hwy. 406 expansion is to begin immediately.

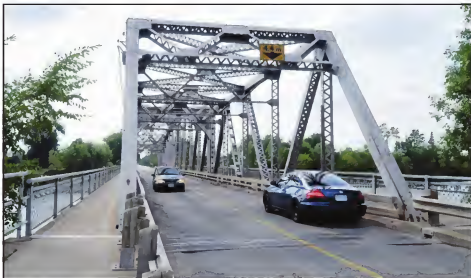
This final phase of construction, which includes widening the provincial highway from two lanes to four from Port Robinson Rd. in Thorold to East Main St. in Welland, comes with a \$61.8-million price tag and is expected to create about 725 jobs, Bradley told the crowd that gathered at the Hwy. 406 and Merritt Rd. intersection.

Work was expected to begin immediately following the 10 a.m. announcement.

see **HIGHWAY** | page 2

■ LINK: Bridge connects Port Colborne and Welland

Bridge may be closed for month



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

The Forks Rd. bridge could be closed for up to a month in order to complete expansion joint work.

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — The Forks Rd. bridge in Dain City will close for maintenance sometime this fall.

Bids for contractors open Aug. 22 to replace a pier expansion joint Niagara Region didn't put back in when it completed repairs in 1996.

The span is now under jurisdiction of the city.

David Tsang, technical services supervisor for the City of Welland, said workers must have missed designs and neglected to put an expansion joint on the east pier of the bridge over the old canal.

"It doesn't affect the safety of the bridge, just shortens its lifespan," he said. "When the temperature changes the concrete moves, expands and shrinks, so it can cause cracks."

see **BRIDGE** | page 2

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■ HIGHWAY

Project to be completed by summer 2015

FROM PAGE 1

Along with the "mainline twinning" of the remaining southern portion of the highway, the project will include construction of two new bridges — on Port Robinson Rd. and over the old Welland Canal — and the creation of a new commuter parking lot on Woodlawn Rd., Bradley said.

The new commuter parking lot is "exceedingly important," Bradley said, as it not only benefit residents by offering a more efficient way to travel but also benefits the environment with less cars on the road.

More than 20,000 drivers use Hwy. 406 each day, making it a "key route in southern Ontario's busy network of highways," Bradley said.

"We hope it will be an even busier highway when we see the project completed."

It was first announced in

May 2009 that the province planned to spend more than \$100 million on widening the highway. Work on the project is scheduled for completion by summer 2015.

Bradley stressed the importance of the infrastructure project to the region.

"We hope it will be an even busier highway when we see the project completed."

St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley

Not only will it improve traffic flow and make driving more convenient and efficient for local residents, it will help to encourage investment in Niagara's municipalities, he said.

The traffic lights along the highway at major inter-

sections are a "significant inconvenience," Bradley said.

Companies are always looking for "transportation routes that are easier" and take that into account when investing in a municipality, he added.

"This work will improve the transportation infrastructure that supports growth and prosperity."

The Hwy. 406 project was awarded to St. Catharines-based Rankin Construction, which planned to start on the bridge work immediately, said company founder Tom Rankin.

Most of the roadwork will not affect traffic, aside from lane reductions at night, said Rankin vice-president Bill Snow.

During the next two years of the project, however, parts that run underneath the canal bridge will be affected, he added.



MARYIANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Ground was officially broken last Friday after it was announced work will commence immediately on widening Hwy. 406 from Port Robinson Rd. in Thorold to East Main St. in Welland. Pictured from left are Tom Rankin, whose company Rankin Construction was awarded the project, Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey, Thorold Mayor Ted Luciani, St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley, Welland Mayor Barry Sharpe and Regional Chair Gary Burroughs.

■ BRIDGE



Supplied photo
Broken sidewalk concrete at east pier, south side of Dain City bridge.

Temporary fix will need council approval

FROM PAGE 1

He likened the expansion joint to spaces in sidewalks; they are two plates slightly separated on the deck of the bridge, there for the same reason, to allow the concrete to move when temperatures change.

The bridge could be closed up to four weeks, but Tsang is hopeful the project will be completed sooner.

"We applied for four weeks

"We are only doing what's necessary right now because it's expensive. It all depends on the resources available when the time comes."

David Tsang, technical services supervisor for the City of Welland

because we didn't want the project to be pressed for time, but we're hoping to get in done in half the time. You just never know how things are with weather," he said.

Tsang hopes to be able to

gather the resources to completely rebuild the bridge in the next 10 years.

"We are only doing what's necessary right now because it's expensive," he said. "It all depends on the resources

available when the time comes."

The contractor, a plan and details still need approval from city council, but Sal Iannello, general manager in charge of infrastructure services for the city, said there will be plenty of warning.

"The contractor is required to give us two weeks' notice so we can publish and advertise," he said.



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portraits

■ **SHOWBOAT:** Comedy debuted last week

Cast feeds off audience in Mending Fences

LINDSAY COSTELLO
For InPort News

PORT COLBORNE — Family, forgiveness and fatherhood are key elements in Showboat Festival Theatre's latest production.

Heartwarming comedy *Mending Fences* drew a crowd as it made its debut at the Roselawn Centre last Thursday.

The touching story of a father and son who are reunited following 13 years apart played out as Showboat veterans Nicholas Rice and Astrid Van Wieren joined newcomer Brady Van Vaerenbergh for the season's final production.



Written by Canadian playwright Norm Foster, the story evolves in both real time and through the use of flashbacks. This approach helps the audience delve further into the minds of the characters and what shapes them as people while watching the cast show its diversity as they each portray multiple roles.

"This play's really different than anything we've done this season," said artistic director Thom Currie, adding the story is organic, allowing it to progress in a natural way rather than being overly structured and detailed.

When Drew returns to Saskatchewan to visit his father Harry, he is able to



Nicholas Rice, Astrid Van Wieren and Brady Van Vaerenbergh rehearse a scene for Norm Foster's *Mending Fences* at Showboat Festival Theatre in Port Colborne. Supplied photo

open up about his life and fill Harry in on what he has missed since he opted to stay in the Prairies. Harry enjoys the simple life and ended up sacrificing his relationships with his wife and child in order to stay put.

Harry's girlfriend Gin acts as the mediator between Drew and Harry as she helps the pair reconnect and find common ground as the show progresses.

This play's really different than anything we've done this season."

Thom Currie, artistic director

While they do not always agree, Drew and Harry are more alike than they want to believe and despite their conflicts, are able to realize the importance of family.

"We were there for each other," said Van Vaerenbergh of the way

the cast was able to feed off of each other and react to the minor glitches that came with the first performance in front of a full audience.

Van Wieren said she felt the viewers were an integral part of the production

and that their response is what made the show special.

"That's what we live for," she said, adding the more involved and aware the audience is, the better the show becomes. She feels that because every audience is different, the comedic and dramatic elements of the story have equal pull and can affect the viewers in different ways.

While the production

has its challenges, the cast is excited to share the story with more audiences throughout the summer before *Mending Fences* ends its three-week run on Sept. 3.

"I think it's a great way to close out the season," said Currie.

For ticket information, visit www.showboattheatre.ca or contact the Roselawn box office by calling 905-834-0833.

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ourview

Supervisor welcome

For many Niagarans, news that Ontario Health Minister Deb Matthews will appoint a supervisor to take over Niagara Health System sounded like the resounding, satisfying thud of the other shoe dropping.

It was only a matter of time before the provincial government stepped in to take control of the NHS, troubled by a string of problems in recent years. It's too bad it seems to have taken a looming election to make the Liberal government see the light. Matthews recently announced the government will hand-pick its own expert to oversee management of Niagara's hospitals, normally run by the NHS.

The supervisor, to be named within the next two weeks, will report directly to the minister. Mayor Vance Badaway has said he welcomes the government's decision on bringing in a supervisor.

Matthews clipped the wings of the NHS because public confidence had been dropped so thoroughly, there was no longer any alternative.

"When that confidence is shaken, we need to step in," she said Monday.

But critics of the NHS — and they are legion — called for years for this kind of direct intervention. So why now?

The timing should be surprising, considering the Oct. 6 provincial election is just seven weeks from now.

Considering how the NHS has been under siege for years, it's impossible to think the government only became aware of the public's concerns recently.

Former president Debbie Sewell had been a lightning rod for public criticism of the organization. She left in January. Other executives have recently retired or moved on.

As to that, the NHS has struggled with three outbreaks of Clostridium difficile — 31 patients with hospital-acquired infections have died since May 28. The NHS badly communicated the scope of the outbreak.

Plus, its hospital improvement plan, a document that recommended the closure of some services to concentrate them at "centres of excellence" throughout the region, has been widely unpopular.

The outcry over the hospital's administration had become too great for the Liberals to ignore. The health minister's move cleared the government's plate of an issue that threatened to hurt them at the polls.

While it would have been nicer to see some action sooner, the most important thing now is for Niagara to see improvements at its hospitals.

If it takes the threat of being punished at the polls to prompt a government into action, bring on more elections.

■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

PASTOR JEEVA SAM
Morgan's Point Church
Forks Road East United Churches

The thirty-something young woman came up to the front of the church and stood before the fifty-something East Indian man. He gently touched her hand, looked her in the eye and started talking. When he said: "I see a new job coming to you," you could tell by the expression on her face that this was good news. Then he said: "I am hearing something about you and your mother." She started sobbing immediately.

The church? Forks Road East United. The man? Peter Kumar. The woman? A first-time visitor to the church. He lives in South Carolina, she is from South Niagara. Needless to say they had never met before. There was no way he would know that her present job was coming to an end in a few months or that her mother had died earlier this year. She was taken aback by the accuracy of his words and touched by their timeliness.

What was going on? Some would call it personal prophetic ministry, some would call it delivering words of destiny, while others would describe it as the act of hearing and receiving a word from God. No matter what the label, here is what was happening. God was revealing something to Peter Kumar about the woman and he was releasing

■ readers' views

Earning public trust

Remember last year when we learned Niagara Health System was rated dead in the delivery of health care in Ontario?

Senior NHS bureaucrats cynically avoided looking into this debacle by arguing 'another investigation' would only further demoralize staff. Now the NHS wants to earn back our trust. It believes the problem stems from our inability to grasp the soundness of its decision-making as the CEO puts it, "good communication is about helping people to understand why decisions were made."

So they've hired a public communications expert to survey the public because "the community needs to be reassured."

How about we ditch the study and you

the revelation to her.

Was this man a prophet?

The Hebrew word "nabi" that is translated "prophet" literally means "a mouthpiece for God." In other words, a prophet is one who hears God and then uses his/her mouth to speak those words to another — be it a person or a community. Thus, Moses, Samuel, Elijah, John the Baptist and even Jesus are described as prophets in the pages of the Bible.

Although it is common to define a prophet as one who predicts the future, the biblical understanding of a prophet is much broader than that. Whatever God reveals, the prophet repeats. Thus the message could refer to the past, address the present or focus on the future. Hence biblical prophecy is not limited to the future. The prophet is a forth-teller first and a fore-teller next.

God creates the content; the prophet conveys it. A prophetic word travels from the heart of God to the mouth of the prophet to the heart of the receiver. (For the record, Peter Kumar does not call himself a prophet, although he is often described as one by others in the Christian community).

What was accomplished? According to the apostle Paul, "the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort." And, should the person who is on the receiving end not be a believer, "as they listen, their secret thoughts will be exposed, and they will

implement these six recommendations to win back our trust: 1 — When you're dead in health-care delivery, fire the person at the top and initiate a formal public inquiry to get to the bottom of the problem. Unfortunately, only half of that recommendation was implemented;

2 — Don't make decisions to shut down hospitals and locate new ones without an open public debate beforehand;

3 — When someone dies who had a C-difficile infection contracted at one of your hospitals, don't keep reminding the public that the patient had underlying medical issues as if it was partly their fault and somehow mitigates their death;

4 — Stop using the term 'centre of excellence' to describe any stripped-down facility that is replacing a closed hospital. That title is meaningless unless

fall to their knees and worship God, declaring, "God is truly here among you." (1 Corinthians 14: 25)

Justupstages these two verses, what we can say that when God reveals what is hidden in one's heart to one of His prophets, it is meant to let the receiver know that God is real, that He cares for them and knows every intimate detail of their life. He wants them to see Him for who He really is. He desires that they be strengthened, encouraged and comforted. He wants them to know that the Church is a community where one can experience God in a tangible way.

Is this not what happened in the aforementioned encounter? God revealed information that only she would know to a total stranger. When Peter Kumar repeated what he heard, she realized that his words were coming from the heart of God. God became real for her in a way that she had not experienced Him before. The words gave her strength, encouragement and comfort. The entire experience has the potential to change her destiny.

I would therefore describe this incident as a fine example of hearing and receiving from God, delivering words of destiny and a demonstration of the power of personal prophetic ministry.

Jeeva Sam welcomes your feedback:
pastor@morganspointunited.com

it is earned and the public will judge that over time;

5 — Don't leave patients to die in hospital parking lots. There have been too many instances of people having to call an ambulance to deliver loved ones from the hospital parking lot to the front door for the public to believe the NHS's claim that this was not somehow related to hospital policy;

6 — Don't gloss over serious problems that have led to public distrust by announcing a trivial public relations exercise designed to make it look like you care what we think.

The problem isn't that we don't get what you are doing — it's that we do. And we don't like it when the problems of health care in an open and honest way.

Dave Robinson
Wainfleet

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■ COLUMN

Port Cares opening project up to the community



Port Cares is continuing with its brick campaign. Bricks are created with the names of those who donate to the organization's capital campaign and will be displayed and hung in the newly renovated Reach Out Food Centre.

LINDSAY COSTELLO
Special to InPort News

Port Cares is building the final stage of its Reaching Out and Changing Lives campaign from the ground up with its brick campaign, which began in July.

The brick campaign gives donors the opportunity to leave a lasting impression on their community, as they will be able to see their brick on display in the Reach Out Food Centre. Donors will receive a paper brick that they can write their name on and attach to a display, which will later become a permanent fixture at the updated Nickel St. facility.

While the new centre opened last week, the

organization is still about \$100,000 away from reaching its capital campaign's \$335,000 fundraising goal.

Representatives from Port Cares have been selling the bricks during the farmers market every other Friday, including Caitlin Battista, marketing and communications coordinator, who was set up across from the Hub café last week.

She said the campaign is designed to give everyone in the community a chance to be a part of the project, no matter what amount they are able to give.

"People have been really, really, supportive about our brick campaign," she said.

The expansion of the centre will allow for an industrial

kitchen, office space, increased capacity in the dining area and ample space for food items used for both the food bank and the meal program.

Battista said that while the major work has been completed, there are a lot of smaller components that are still needed in order to fulfill all of the centre's needs.

She said she has taken notice of an increase in support as the organization reaches the final push towards the campaign's completion.

Those interested in purchasing a brick can visit the market next Friday and every alternating week until October or call Port Cares at 905-834-3629.

see COSTELLO | page 6

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■ COSTELLO



Crawford's blend of comedy and singing melts the Ice Box

FROM PAGE 5

SUMMER SONGS

A parking lot was transformed into a stage last Saturday as comedian Joe Crawford brought his singing comedy show to the Ice Box.

With two free shows, one in the afternoon and one in the evening, the performances acted as a preview for what Crawford has planned for his 10th anniversary tour.

Having loved to entertain as a child, Crawford decided he wanted to make a career out of entertainment and now blends comedy with music in his interactive shows.

Born and raised in Port Colborne, Crawford's shows were designed to show his community what he had to offer but he said he decided to change up his set lists to keep things fresh and save what he feels is his best material for the upcoming shows where he has the opportunity to add costumes and effects.

Crawford said he did not know what to expect prior to the show but was pleased with the turnout.

Taking to the park over the past weekend, he faced great weather that he thought helped to draw a crowd

visiting the park for various activities. While some took shelter in the shade, groups also sat in front of the store to see the show up close.

"It went really well," he said of the afternoon's performance, adding he was initially nervous about how things would pan out but looked forward to doing it all again later that night.

Crawford will take his performances to the next level during the fall tour by adding celebrity impersonations and inviting other musicians to share the stage.

The fall shows will cap off his milestone year and can be seen Oct. 15 in Dunnville, Oct. 21 in Welland and Nov. 5 in Port Colborne.

For more information, visit www.joecrawfordlive.com.

LINDSAY COSTELLO InPort News Photo

Port Colborne comedian Joe Crawford performed two shows at The Ice Box on Saturday as a preview of his 10th anniversary tour.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING

To be held by Niagara Region Wind Corporation regarding a Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project

Project Name: Niagara Region Wind Project

Project Location: The Study Area is within Haldimand County and Niagara Region (including the Township of Pelham, Township of Wainfleet, and Township of West Lincoln). The Interconnector Study Area is within the Town of Grimsby, Town of Lincoln and the Township of West Lincoln, in Niagara Region, in southern Ontario.

Dated at Haldimand County and Niagara Region this 2nd of August 2011.

Niagara Region Wind Corporation is planning to engage in a renewable energy project in respect of which the issuance of a renewable energy approval is required. The proposal to engage in the project and the project itself is subject to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act (ACT) Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09 (Regulation). This notice must be distributed in accordance with section 15 of the Regulation prior to an application being submitted and assessed for completeness by the Ministry of the Environment. The project team will be holding the first Public Meeting as required under section 16(1) of the Regulation. We are offering multiple meeting locations and dates for this event. The sessions will be drop-in style, and each session will be identical so that you can attend whichever session is most convenient:

	Tuesday, September 13	Wednesday, September 14	Thursday, September 15
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.	Town of Grimsby Peach King Centre Auditorium 182 Livingston Avenue Grimsby	Town of Pelham Royal Canadian Legion #613 141 Hwy 20 East Pelham	Township of Wainfleet Fire Hall 31507 Park Street Wainfleet
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.	Town of Lincoln Rockway Community Centre 221 Regional Rd 69 Lincoln	Township of West Lincoln Smithville Christian High School 6486 Smithville Townline Road Smithville	Haldimand County Lowlands Community Centre 2633 Northshore Road Lowlands

Project Description: Pursuant to the Act and Regulation, the facility, in respect of which the project is to be engaged in, is considered to be a Class 4 Wind Facility. If approved, this facility would have a total maximum name plate capacity of 230 MW. The project location is described in the map (right).

Documents for Public Inspection: The Draft Project Description Report titled Niagara Region Wind Project – Draft Project Description Report describes the proposed facility as a wind farm that will be used to convert wind to electricity. A written copy of the Draft Project Description Report is available for public inspection at www.nwcc.ca, and multiple locations, including each of the following local municipal offices:

Project Contacts and Information:

To learn more about the project or to communicate concerns please contact:
Project Email Address: info@nwcc.ca Project Website: www.nwcc.ca
Project Phone Number: 905-390-3306 or 1-855-720-2892 (toll free)

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300 - 875 Cochrane Drive, West Tower,
Markham, ON L3R 0B8

Haldimand County: 45 Munsee Street North, Cayuga
Niagara Region: 2201 St. David's Road, Thorold
Town of Grimsby: 160 Livingston Avenue, Grimsby
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Town of Pelham: 20 Pelham Town Square, Fortville
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■ ELECTION: Ursini's campaign office open for business



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Welland Progressive Conservative candidate Domenic Ursini, centre, opened his campaign office on Saturday in the St. Charles Plaza on the corner of Lincoln St. and Prince Charles Dr. N. He was joined by family, friends and constituents, as well as, from left, volunteer coordinator Rebecca Grundy, Allan Pietz, Welland's last Conservative MP, Welland PC federal election candidate Leanna Villiella, and office volunteer Anna Nucitelli. Ursini's office will be open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. For more information, call 905-687-0197 or visit www.domenicursini.com.

■ inPortbriefs

BEACH GETS FEEDBACK

WAINFLEET — Mayor April Jeffs says she's received some negative feedback, but a lot of good feedback as well about the new regional beach in the township.

The beach, on Lakeshore Rd. east of Long Beach Conservation Area, was officially opened last year by Niagara Region, which purchased the lakefront property. It features a parking and walking path to the beach, while also protecting Fowler's Toad habitat.

"I have been in contact on a fairly regular basis with the adjacent property owners and although they have a few issues they have said most people visiting are respectful," Jeffs told township council in her mayor's report at council recently. She said main issues have been overflow parking and pets on the beach.

"I know our parking enforcement officer is down there on a regular basis to patrol the parking and Niagara Regional Police have assured me that they are doing their best to keep on top of checking in on a regular basis."

ROAD STILL ON PAR

WAINFLEET — The township has a one-year warranty on Golf Course Rd., Mayor April Jeffs told council recently during her mayor's remarks. Jeffs said she, director of operations Greg Wuisman and Aid. Ted Hessels, chair of the public works committee, recently met with contractors Norjoh Contracting and Paving about the road, Golf Course and Rathfon Rds.

underwent tar and chipping earlier this year and residents were concerned over the work on Golf Course.

"On Tuesday, Aug. 9, we inspected Golf Course Rd. again with Ron Nash from Norjoh. Ron reiterated to me what Aid. Hessels and Greg have said, that the layer of tar and chip was similar to applying a coat of paint so to speak. Because we didn't 'shave' the road first, this is why some of the imperfections can still be seen."

"He also conceded that there was some discolouration in the road because of the heavy rains, however, the application has cured like they hoped."

Jeffs said the township has a one-year warranty on the treatment and the three will be revisiting the road in the spring to see how it fared over the winter months. "In the future, I personally would like to see council appraised of all road maintenance so I think this will be something we'll need to address in March when we do the budget," she said.



Jeffs



Wuisman

■ **TURBINES:** Some to be installed in Wainfleet

Public meetings outline windmill projects

WAYNE CAMPBELL
InPort News Staff

PELHAM — Niagara Region Wind Corp. will be explaining to the public its proposal for a Class 4 wind facility it wants to put in the region or eastern Haldimand.

This turbine project would generate enough power for about 60,000 Ontario homes, the company says on its website, www.nrw.ca. "It is designed to respect the natural heritage, landscape and culture of the local communities in which it is based, with wind

mills clustered in small families of four or five, spread out over vast distances," it says.

The wind corporation has set up a study area that includes a section of western Pelham, north and south of Fenwick. The area also involves larger projects of Wainfleet, West Lincoln, Grimsby, Lincoln and southeastern Haldimand County.

To explain its project, the company will hold a series of public meetings in mid-September.

For a three-hour meeting in Pelham — starting 1 p.m.

on Wednesday, Sept. 14, at the Royal Canadian Legion hall on Regional Rd. 20 — the town will send its planning director, Craig Larmour.

Larmour explained to town council this week, Pelham has no formal jurisdiction over wind projects under provincial legislation. It can, however, comment on projects in matters such as health concerns and planning issues.

"We will talk to other municipalities who have had more experience with these projects," he said about preparations.

Mayor Dave Augustyn said the company name, Niagara Region Wind Project, has created confusion.

"It is not linked with the Niagara Region," he said referring to the upper-tier municipal government. "It has nothing to do with the Niagara Region."

The region is a 50% owner of Wind Energy Niagara with Rankin Energy of Rankin Construction. It approved that wind project connection in 2006.

The mayor said people who can't make the meeting at the legion may attend one of the other five.

On Tuesday, Sept. 13, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., there is one at Rockway Community

Centre at 2021 Regional Rd. 69. It follows one from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Peach King Centre in Grimsby.

On Wednesday, Sept. 14, there is also one at Smithville Christian High School from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

On Thursday, Sept. 15, the company will hold meetings at the Wainfleet fire hall at 1 p.m. and at Lowbanks Community Centre at 5:30 p.m.



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■ MEETINGS: Group meeting with residents

Coalition seeks feedback – good and bad

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

WELLAND – An organization concerned about hospital restructuring wants to know how Niagara Health System's hospital improvement plan has affected Niagarans' lives.

Niagara Health Coalition will be holding a series of

five public consultation meetings – one each in Welland and Port Colborne – next week to gather feedback from residents on what is or is not working in health-care services since the HIP was first implemented.

The controversial HIP resulted in the closures of emergency wards at Port

Colborne and Douglas Memorial hospitals, converting them to urgent care centres.

Coalition chair Sue Hottel said the group has been collecting information for the past six months to compile a report about health care in Niagara and hospital restructuring.

"We've met with long-

term care officials, had chats with (NHS interim CEO) Sue Matthews several weeks ago. We have all kinds of information on what's happening in long-term care centres, hospitals and home care," Hottel said.

At the public consultation meetings, the coalition will share its research findings.

All feedback will be used

for the report it hopes to present to officials at Queen's Park on Sept. 13.

"We'll take input whether it's good or bad," Hottel said. "We'll pool all that with our research. We want to show that patients are not statistics. They are real people."

For more information contact the Niagara Health Coalition at 289-271-6581.

■ CANDIDATE

Changebook aims to aid farmers

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET – Domenic Ursini hopes to see support given to farmers in Wainfleet.

The Welland Progressive Conservative candidate visited a local farm recently to officially kick off his Wainfleet PC campaign. Ursini was joined by supporters, including Mayor April Jeffs and deputy mayor Richard Dykstra, on the property of local grain farmer Gerry Prentice, where he spoke about how the PC party's Changebook will deliver results for the municipality.

Agriculture is one of the PC party's main priorities, Ursini told a small crowd, adding PC candidates are aware of the difficulties currently found within the sector.

"Maintaining a family farm has become a real struggle," he added.

Ursini said the party will be a "champion for agriculture" and the rural economy it supports.

(PC Leader) Tim Hudak and Domenic Ursini understand that strong farms are vital to a strong Ontario, Dykstra said, showing his support. "The Ontario PC party's Changebook will provide farmers the change we need to meet today's challenges and help attract the next generation of farmers."

Changebook will introduce a business risk-management program and protect supply management, Ursini said, adding it will also deliver a Buy Ontario food policy and lead by example at provincial institutions such as hospitals and schools.

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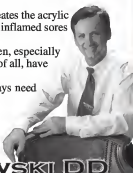
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■ **BYLAW APPROVED:** Recovering costs for new roads and streetlights, growing need for fire services

Turbines loom over development charges talk

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Wind turbines and solar panels dominated talk about Wainfleet's development charge bylaw last week.

Ald. Betty Konc told township council she had huge problems with an addendum in the report concerning wind turbines and how much they would be charged under the new bylaw.

Development charges are a way for municipalities to recover capital costs associated with residential and non-residential growth. Those capital costs can cover such things as roads, sidewalks, streetlights, fire protection and administration. All municipalities can impose the fees which are calculated on the type and amount of growth that takes place.

"I object to the idea that wind turbines can be compared to a single-family

dwelling. This is new territory that everyone is getting into with wind projects," said Konc.

She said it would be hasty to put a figure, which would be \$3,918 in Wainfleet, on the turbines especially since the report didn't delineate between industrial and domestic wind turbines or talk about nacelles and blades.

The alderman asked if the report could be sent back to staff and council to ask for a clearer definition of wind turbines. She also asked about solar panels, stating there may be some interest of establishing a solar array in the township.

Mayor April Jeffs asked what the impact of sending the report back would

be in light of council not meeting until September.

"The longer we delay this means the more money the township is losing out on. There are people applying for homes now," said township planner Grant Munday.

Township treasurer Robyn Maderes said the consultant was willing to look at the report again, but added if council decided to assign wind turbines to the industrial category the township would receive less money.

Under the new bylaw, development charges for single and semi-detached homes have been set at \$6,714, special care/special dwelling units are set at \$2,252. Non-residential rates are set at \$3.96 per square foot.

The wind turbine rate does not include municipal services such as indoor and outdoor recreation services or library services.

"Development charges are related to the impact turbines will have on services. There has to be a connection ..." said Munday, adding those township services aren't affected by wind turbines.

Council had asked about setting its own rate for wind turbines, but were told by Munday that any number set has to be "defensible" if the bylaw is appealed by a developer.

He said the consultants

who prepared the report are experts and have come up with the best defensible positions with the new bylaw.

Ald. Ted Hessels questioned why solar panels weren't mentioned in the new bylaw.

Maderes said solar panels on the ground don't require building permits and that's why they weren't included. Munday added that roof-mounted panels do require building permits to ensure a structure can handle them.

Hessels, a volunteer firefighter, said roof-mounted panels could pose problems for fire services personnel and put a burden on the service and thought they should be included.

Munday said Chief Chris Cole is taking a training program about roof-mounted panels and added

there are provisions under the Green Energy Act for fire services to recover costs associated to training and any situations dealing with the panels.

Konc said the solar panels she was talking about were not the domestic types, they were industrial ones.

"These projects (solar arrays and wind turbines) are making developers money at the expense of taxpayers ... we need to put a price on them," she said.

Ald. David Wyatt wanted to see the bylaw deferred so staff could go back to the consultants for more information, but his motion was defeated.

The report was passed and the bylaw was read three times and passed on Tuesday.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca



Konc



Munday



Maderes

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■ **TEAM:** Shooting for the title

Pirates set sail on 2011-12 hockey season

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The sound of slapshots being hit could be heard from the outside the Westside Arena last Monday.

Inside, it was a sea of red and blue practice jerseys as about 70 hopefuls showed off their skills on opening night of the Port Colborne Pirates tryout camp.

On one side of the rink a group of goalies was blocking shots in a drill; on the other, defencemen and forwards were taking turns hurling pucks into an empty net.

Pucks flew everywhere, even into the stands where parents watched attentively, hoping their son will be the season-opening roster after the junior B hockey team makes its final cuts.

Up in the pressbox, Bryan Kelly, the Pirates head coach and general manager, watched the action on the ice just as attentively. With his best game face on, Kelly looked around to see which players were standing out

from the rest.

"The tryouts work hand in hand with our recruiting," Kelly said. "We're just excited to get started."

He is hoping the 2011-2012 Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League season will be one that will end with a championship run, something Port Colborne hasn't seen for "quite a while."

"We haven't had anything close to a championship season ... because of last year's building success, I think this is our chance to get to the next step."

Kelly said the Pirates had very good playoff success last season. He recalled a team that finished league play fifth in the nine-team Golden Horseshoe Conference came within 20 minutes of heading to the final until the Pirates were defeated by the eventual playoff champion Niagara Falls Canucks in the deciding game of a seven-game semifinal.

Underdog Port Colborne had built steam during a quarter-final of the division playoffs, taking four straight



Port Colborne Pirates goalie hopefuls attempt to block pucks from entering the net at the first day of tryout camp at the West Side Arena Monday.

victories in a heated series with the Welland Junior Canadians, a team that led the best-of-seven series three games to none at one point.

For the Pirates, playoff hockey against the Canucks, but ended after a Game 7 loss.

Kelly, who is replacing onetime coach of the year Keith Osborne as Port Colborne's bench boss, is hoping to build on the success of last year's finish by getting into the top three or four in the league standings. To achieve that, Kelly said he

needs a strong team, and that comes with experience.

"We've got 14 eligible kids coming back. We've also done a good job this off-season with recruiting," the new coach said. "When you have success it makes recruiting a lot easier."

"Most of our guys returning are in their third and fourth year. We have a very veteran team."

Having a veteran team is a shift in focus for the Pirates, who are used to putting a younger team on the ice. With the handful of new

recruits, Kelly hoped to pick out some stand-out players from training camp tryouts.

"There's no substitute for skill. We're looking for guys with hockey sense and hard work," he said. "We hope we can put the pieces (veterans) around them (rookies) to complement them. It should be a good mix."

This will be the first time

Exhibition games
The Port Colborne Pirates' pre-season schedule:

Tuesday, Aug. 30, Port Colborne at St. Catharines, 7:30 p.m.

PIRATES CUP TOURNAMENT

Friday, Aug. 26, Port Erie at Port Colborne, 9 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 27, Brantford at Port Colborne, 10 a.m. Thorold at Port Colborne, 4 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 28, Tournament final, 1:30 p.m.

* All home games played at Westside Arena

Kelly will be the head coach, taking over for Osborne who now coaches the Junior Canadians. Working with Kelly will be Henry Dunn as an assistant coach as well as two graduating players from last season — team captain and Port Colborne native Dillon River and playoff hero Cole Rubinoff.

Nicholas Gignone, who rejoined the Pirates in mid-season and backstopped the team in the playoffs, will be the goaltending coach.

see **HOCKEY** | page 15

PORT COLBORNE Youth BASKETBALL

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EDDIE CHAU Staff Photo

Port Colborne Pirates head coach Brian Kelly watches attentively from the press box at the West Side Arena.

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■ HOCKEY

Puck drops on Pirates' regular season Sept. 9 vs. Meteors

FROM PAGE 14

"There's always pressure as a coach. We've been in the basement for so long in expectations. This is our

chance to see if we can get into the mix and take a run at it (the championship). I think we have a very good coaching team."

After the first three days of tryouts, Kelly will evaluate the players and make cuts and begin formalizing a roster for the upcoming

season. Thursday and Friday, the Pirates will play host to the Fort Erie Meteors in exhibition games. Faceoff at Westside Arena is set for 7

both nights.

Practice will continue next week leading to the Pirates Cup tournament Aug. 26-28. The regular season will begin

Sept. 9, with an 8 p.m. faceoff at home against the Meteors.

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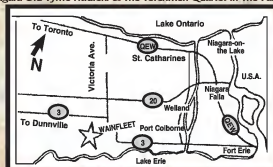
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